Leakage of information about the suggestions of the Franchise Commissioner.

43. *Mr. J. John Kattakayam: Will the Government be pleased to state whether the authorities concerned are enquiring about the leakage of information regarding some of the suggestions of the Franchise Commissioner without the knowledge and consent of the latter?

Rao Bahadur Dr. N. Kunjan Pillai: Yes.

Mr J John Kattakayam: അതിനെപ്പറ്റി നടത്തിയിട്ടുള്ള നടപടി എന്താണ്?

Rao Bahadur Dr. N. Kunjan Pillai: അന്വേഷണംനടത്തി ഇപ്പോൾ അതു ആലോചനയിലിരിക്കയാണു.

Mr J. John Kattakayam: അന്വേഷണം ആരംഭിച്ചിട്ട് എത്രനാളായി?

Rao Bahadur Dr. N. Kunjan Pillai: ആ സംഭവം ഉണ്ടായതുമുതൽ അന്വേഷണം നടത്തുകയായിരുന്നു.

Mr J. John Kattakayam: ആ സംഭവം നടന്നതു എന്നായിരുന്നു?

Rao Bahadur Dr. N. Kunjan Pillai: തീയതി ഓർമ്മയില്ല.

Mr J. John Kattakayam: രണ്ടുമൂന്നു മാസമായിട്ടു അതിനെപ്പറ്റി ചെയ്തിട്ടുള്ളതെന്താണു?

Rao Bahadur Dr. N. Kunjan Pillai: അന്വേഷണം നടത്തീട്ടുണ്ട്. ഇപ്പോൾ ആ സംഗതി ആലോചനയിലിരിക്കുകയാണ്.

Mr. K. P. Nilakanta Pillai: What is the information that has leaked out?

Rao Bahadur Dr. N. Kunjan Pillai: Some information contained in the Franchise Commissioner's Report.

Mr. K. P. Nilakanta Pillai: May I know from the member what is the point regarding which information has been received? My point is whether an enquiry was ordered on the information that leaked out as published in the newspaper?

Rao Bahadur Dr. N. Kunjan Pillai: Yes.

Mr. K. P. Nilakanta Pillai: May I know, Sir, whether the Franchise Commissioner has considered it nothing extraordinary to consult with public men?

Rao Bahadur Dr. N. Kunjan Pillai: He might have consulted some persons. I dont see anything extraordinary in it.

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Mr. K. P. Nilakanta Pillai : May I know whether the Government think that the report is very confidential ?

Rao Bahadur Dr. N Kunjan Pillai : The report is confidential.

Mr. K. P. Nilakanta Pillai : May I know whether there was any information that leaked out which would show that any part of the report was divulged ?

Rao Bahadur Dr. N. Kunjan Pillai : Some information contained in the report, of course not everything in it ,was published in a local newspaper and it is in regard to this that an enquiry has been conducted.

Mr. K. P. Nilakanta Pillai : May I know whether it is not possible for the public to contemplate the answer of the Franchise Commissioner if he has been authorised to consult the leading men and to have conversations with them ?

President : I do not see the point of that question. I believe what he said was that the Franchise Commissioner would have consulted so as to get some useful information, but that does not mean that any information which might have been derived from the individual would be extracted in the report he would submit.

Mr. K. P. Nilakanta Pillai : May I know whether the information is exactly as it is in the report ?

Rao Bahadur Dr. N. Kunjan Pillai : I do not say that it is exactly the same.

Mr. K. P. Nilakanta Pillai : May I know, Sir, whether that particular report which leaked out said that this is the contents of the Franchise Commissioner's report ?

Rao Bahadur Dr. N. Kunjan Pillai : I do not think that the newspaper said that the information it published was exactly the same as the contents of the report.

Mr. M. N. Paramesvaran Pillai : May I know, Sir, whether public opinion needs to be ascertained in this matter? If public opinion can be ascertained on that report, there is no meaning in the saying that the report has leaked out.

President : The public opinion may be consulted after the report has been submitted to Government.

Mr. M. N. Paramesvaran Pillai : If that is so, may I know, Sir, whether any action has been taken against the newspaper?

Rao Bahadur Dr. N. Kunjan Pillai : The whole matter is under consideration.

Mr. E. P. Varghese : May I know, Sir, whether the enquiry conducted covers the question whether the leakage was from the Commissioner or without his knowledge ?

President : You cannot divulge the contents of the enquiry.

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